

The “EYE”



GARAGE BURGLARIES..... THE SAGA CONTINUES!



People are still leaving their garage doors open. People are still leaving valuable items in their cars at night. People are still forgetting to lock the doors of the house when they leave to “run errands” or “be gone just a minute”. People are still forgetting.....but the bad guys are not! The bad guys are making a profit from the peoples “forgetfulness”!

We have had a large amount of garage burglaries since January 2006 to now. During the year of 2006, we had **430** garage burglaries (of which some included home burglaries **through the open garage**). So far, the year of 2007 is on course to being a match with **310** garage burglaries.....with the Christmas shopping season yet to go!! During the fall, we have seen the burglaries of garages go up as many people are doing yard clean up and leaving doors open while they are out and about because it is cooler out. When we leave doors open, we invite trouble. When trouble knocks (or doesn't in these cases), you most likely are going to end up losing valuables.

Many people have asked “What is being stolen?” Well, what ever you can carry off or drive off. We have seen a large number of golf club sets being taken, power tools, bicycles, backpacks, beer, keys to cars, garage door openers (so they can come back later), cars, and items from the house. Since some people have been leaving their keys in their cars or leaving connecting doors open, it is not hard for the thieves to enter the home and remove items. This is especially dangerous as many of these burglaries are occurring at night and to have someone enter your home at night, while you are sleeping.....needless to say, is something you don't want to happen.

Recently, this topic has been discussed at all five of the Neighborhood Watch Team Meetings. I reminded people to keep a look out for people who don't belong in the neighborhood and for neighbors to watch out for neighbors! You are our link for improving our response into your neighborhoods. You know what is out of place and what is strange. You need to be our eyes, ears and fast fingers on the phone. Here are some tips to keep your neighborhood safe and secure as the fall and winter approach.

1. **KEEP YOUR GARAGE DOOR SHUT WHEN YOU ARE NOT INSIDE IT!!**
2. **Take valuable items out of your vehicles when they are parked inside your garage.**
3. **Take other valuable items (golf clubs, tools, bicycles, etc) and lock them up** if you need to leave your garage door open.
4. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR KEYS IN YOUR CARS, EVEN IF THE GARAGE DOOR IS SHUT!**
5. **Lock your car** even if it is parked inside a garage.
6. **Lock any connecting doors to the house.**
7. **Watch out for strangers going door to door.** If they are not carrying anything and keep going from house to house, they are looking for open doors to enter into the house and commit a burglary.
8. Above all, be a good neighbor and let your neighbors know when they forget to close their garage doors!

Calling all youth.....Calling all youth...

The Lincoln Police Department Law Enforcement Explorer Post #575 wants You!



The Lincoln Police Department is looking for interested youth between the ages of 14 to 20 to begin a new era in Law Enforcement Exploring!



Post 575, founded by the Lincoln Police Department, will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Main Police Station at 575 South 10th.

Youth will have the opportunity to experience some of the same training that our police officers. Explorers scouts will also be active in community events, such as The Star City Parade, Boo at the Zoo, Lincoln Marathon, July 4th Celebration, Football games and more! Explorers will assist police officers in various other activities as well.

Meetings will generally be held once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Police Department's Main Station. Meetings will consist of a short business meeting conducted by the Explorers and then a training session on various police-related issues. Explorers will hold individual ranks within the group such as Captain or Sergeant and will gain those ranks by election and achievement.

The Law Enforcement Explorer Program is dedicated to five areas of emphasis. They are Career Opportunities, Leadership Experience, Character Education, Citizenship and Life Skills. The main goal is to give the youth a chance to increase their leadership skills, self confidence level, and gain knowledge regarding law enforcement as a career.

Anyone with questions is asked to contact Officer Jason Hellmuth or Investigator Erin Schmit at **441-7204**.

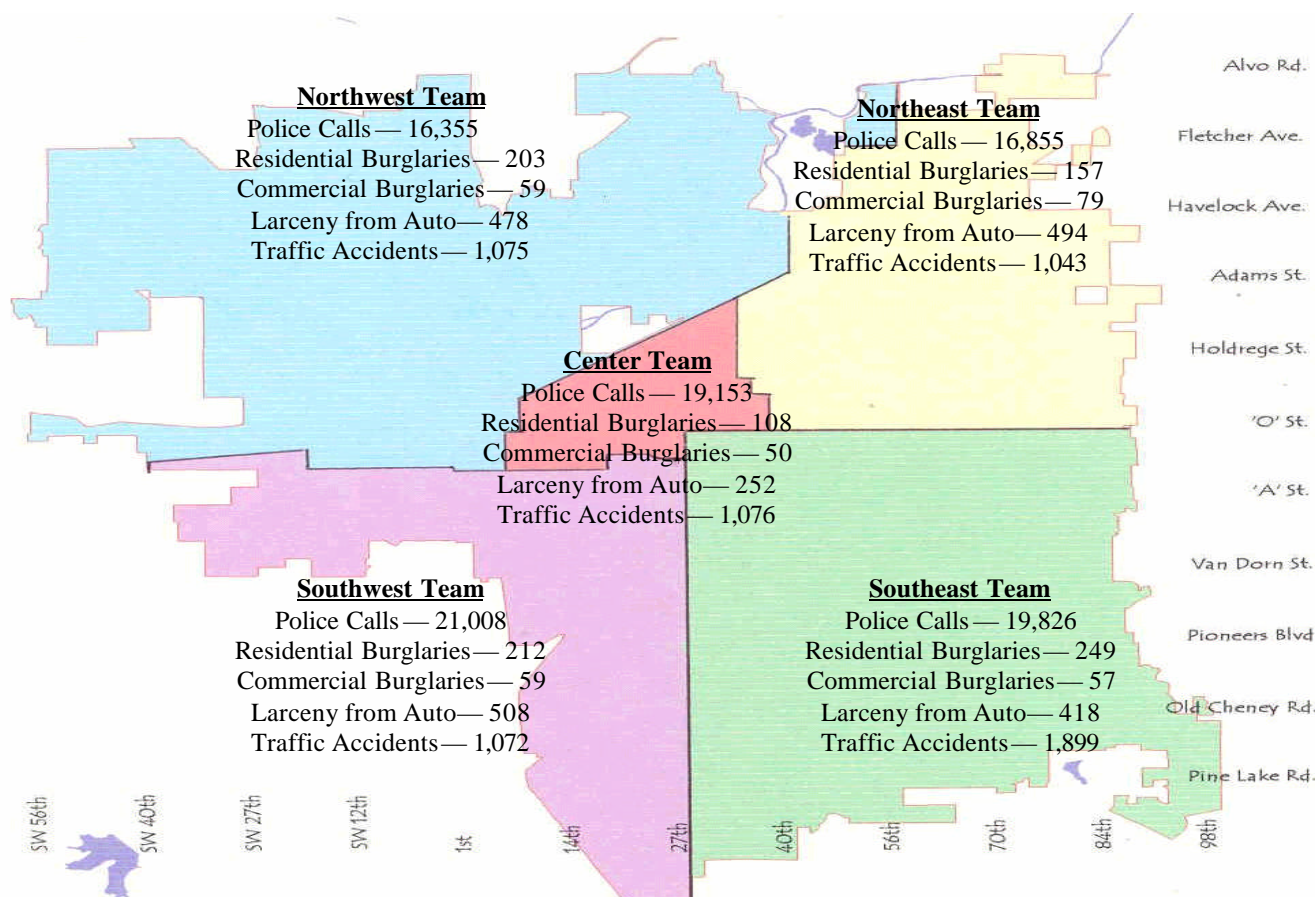
CHANGES TO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Due to recent staffing issues, the Department has recognized the need to change some of the staffing to various units. As a result of the changes in staffing levels, there will be fewer officers in the Community Services Unit. You may ask, "What does this mean to me?" Well, here is some of the changes that will be occurring during the next year.

1. The Department will not be producing the "Crime Trend" letters anymore. The information that was provided in this letter is available on-line at the Police Department's website.
2. "THE EYE" and "THE NET" newsletters will only be mailed out TWICE a year (Once in January and again in July).
3. Officers availability for programs/presentations will be severely limited. All requests are going to have to be scheduled IN ADVANCE (meaning more than 1 month) before the event.
4. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - WILL STILL OCCUR!! We will have to rely on the street teams to have more officers go to the events, but the Community Services Unit will still coordinate the event and scheduling of officers.
5. A new officer will be assigned the City-wide Coordinators' position by January 10th, 2008. I have served my 3 year rotation in my current assignment and will rotate out to the streets again. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Officer Jason Hellmuth, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-01-2006 and 8-31-2006



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through August of 2007 there have been 95,182 police calls for service across the city. This is .7% increase in calls for service than in the same time frame in 2006. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 930, the same number as last year at this time. Larcenies from auto reports are up by 8.8% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of August 2007, 2,265 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

During the first seven months of the year, there have been 304 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2006, that gives us a 13.1% decrease in business break-ins. During 2007, the city has seen an increase in garage burglaries. This is mostly from people leaving their garage doors open. The police department asks you to continue to pay attention to your neighborhood area for any unusual people or occurrences. Please call the police when you see any suspicious activities.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SIGNS

Good news, Lincoln!! We have received money from the city council to purchase more neighborhood watch signs! Some of the current and out going city council persons pooled some of their remaining discretionary funds together and gave that money over to the police department for the purchase of neighborhood watch signs. There is going to be some changes to the signs. They will be a little smaller (18" x 12" or 18" by 18") rather than the 24" x 24" square. They will have similar wording and "The EYE" emblem on it. They will be a two color sign rather than the 4 color we have had in the past. We hope that the color changes and size changes will allow us to produce a lower cost sign and thus allow us to buy more with the money that was given to us by the city council. Any questions, please contact the Crime Prevention unit at 441-7261.

The “EYE”

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested

Halloween Safety Plans

HOW KIDS AND PARENTS CAN FEEL SAFE



Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be very scary. Concerns about children's safety, whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with their treats, can darken an otherwise happy day. But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these great tips!

- ✓ Make sure children's costumes are flame retardant, so the ghosts and ghouls are not in danger by burning jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- ✓ Try make up instead of a mask. Sometimes masks hamper the vision of children. Be Safe! Wear a scary face created by make up rather than an over the head or over the face type mask.
- ✓ Make sure the kids wear light colored costumes or have reflective material on the costume/bag they are carrying. Tell them to obey all safety and traffic rules.
- ✓ Have the kids trick-or-treat in groups so they are not a target for real life goblins! Parents should accompany young children.
- ✓ Trick-or-Treat while it is light. If you are out later, make sure you have a flashlight with you.



- ✓ DO NOT ENTER STRANGE HOUSES OR CARS!! Real monsters could be inside!
- ✓ After kids get home and they are ready to eat their fill, check the candy and treats before that happens.

